

IV. R marks

Claims 9-19 are rejected and pending. Responsive to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2003, claims 16, 17, and 19 have been amended, and claims 9-15 have been cancelled. With the amendments provided above and the remarks provided below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and a withdrawal of all objections and rejections.

Responsive to paragraph 1 of the Office Action, proposed drawing corrections have been provided to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5). More specifically, replacement Figures 1 and 3 of the present application include reference sign A and reference numerals 25, 34, 37, 41, 44, 47, and 51 as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Responsive to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action, paragraphs 0001, 0004-0006 and the Abstract have been added to no longer indicate that the claimed invention is a method.

Responsive to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claim 12 has been cancelled.

Responsive to paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 17, 18, and 19 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 14 has been cancelled. Thus, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejections of claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Oros et al., Seeds, Simons, Schabel, Breese '350, Breese '135, or Breese '018, each of the cited references fails to teach each and every element as set forth in the invention as now recited in amended claim 16. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. Claim 16 clearly calls for "an

outer shoulder to engage the open end of the tube, the contact wall being radially formed to insert through the open end and engage the inner surface of the driveshaft wall to press fit into the tube." It is clear that none of the above cited references teach an outer shoulder engaging the open end of the tube or that the contact wall is press fit into the tube. For example, Seeds and Simons fail to teach an outer shoulder engaging the open end of the tube. See Seeds, Figure 1; See Simons, Figure 1. Moreover, Oros et al. fail to teach a contact wall engaging the inner surface of the drive shaft wall as recited in amended claim 16. Thus, because each of the cited references fails to show all elements of amended claim 16, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipate by Zackrisson, Zackrisson fails to teach each and every element as set forth in the invention as claimed in amended claim 16. Amended claim 16 now calls for "the contact wall being radially formed to insert through the open end and engage the inner surface of the driveshaft wall to press fit into the tube." Support for amended claim 16 may be found in the specification of the present application, page 5, paragraph 18. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Zackrisson fails to teach a contact wall being radially formed to press fit into the tube. Zackrisson merely shows a yoke having a reduced diameter portion which extends into a tube and a shoulder which abuts one end of the tube. Zackrisson, column 2, lines 15-23; see also Figures 1 and 2. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 17-19 are dependent claims which depend generally from claim 16. Thus, these claims are allowable for the reasons provided above.

Moreover, other combinations of the cited references fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of the amended claims and would result in improper rejections.

Therefore, claims 16-19 are in a condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

9-3-03

Date



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Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s) of Drawings
Annotated Sheet(s) of Drawings